

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. A Power of Attorney in favor of the undersigned was submitted to the Office on March 1, 2004 and was accepted on March 25, 2004.

Counsel wishes to thank Examiner Brown for providing a courtesy copy of the Official Action mailed October 17, 2003. This Amendment responds to the Official Action and the issues presented in it.

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regard as their invention, to improve the form of presentation of these claims, for purposes of clarity and to respond to the rejections stated on page 2 of the Official Action.

More specifically, the subject matter of claims 3 and 6 has been incorporated in claim 1. Claims 3 and 6 have been withdrawn as have counterpart claims 16-20. Claim 9 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 10 and also to include the definition of claim 6. In addition claims 12, 14 and 15 have been have withdrawn as being redundant having regard to the amendments made to claim 1. Where appropriate, the expression "characterized in that" has been replaced with --wherein-- and the appropriate Markush terminology employed in claims 4, 7 and 13.

Previously examined claims 1-5 and 9-15 have attracted a rejection of alleged anticipation over Lhost et al U.S. 6,013,595. In addition, the examiner has indicated the allowability of claims 6-8 and 16-20. As the subject matter of claim 6 has been incorporated into both claim 1 and claim 9, the only two independent claims in the application, the rejection based upon the Lhost et al reference has been overcome.

Claim 11 only is the subject of an obviousness-type double patenting rejection over the identified claims of U.S. 6,627,706. Submitted with this response is a Terminal Disclaimer to address and resolve this issue.

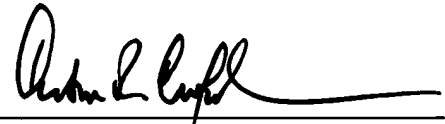
FOLLESTAD, A. et al.
Appl. No. 09/601,652
April 16, 2004

All of the issues raised in the outstanding Action being resolved, it is respectfully submitted claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13 are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the examiner requires information, please contact the undersigned by telephone. Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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